

3/10/2015 (DRAFT)

Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) Incident

Wildlife sampling protocol

Recommendations Short-Term and Long-Term Monitoring

This wildlife sampling protocol is a multi-agency effort including various Federal and State wildlife and agriculture agencies. Wildlife can transport *Burkholderia pseudomallei* into new environments. Wildlife may also serve as sentinels for the presence of *B. pseudomallei* in the environment, indicating the presence of the organism in the environment and risk to humans or other animals. This recommendation provides a mechanism to monitor the risk of *B. pseudomallei* to humans and other animal. This wildlife sampling should be done in concert with soil sampling to assist with interpretation and further quantify the likelihood of *B. pseudomallei* outside the Tulane National Primate Research Facility.

Actions in this plan will be carried out in a coordinated fashion. Oversight will be the primary responsibility of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, with input from the working group as needed. The United States Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Services Laboratories will perform the testing of samples in collaboration with other laboratories as needed. This plan will be carried out as recommended for a period of 5 years or until acceptable level of confidence is reached, under the assumption that surveillance results in all negative culture results, presumptive positives do not exceed the expected threshold, and soil sampling around presumptive positives do not indicate the presence of the *B. pseudomallei* in the environment.

Short-Term Objectives:

- Establish the baseline for the extent of *B. pseudomallei* and other cross reacting organisms outside of the TNPRC in wildlife.
- Determine whether rodents and feral cats have been exposed or are infected.
- Determine whether wildlife are able to transmit the organism.
- Establish the baseline for sentinel surveillance sites.
- Develop a monitoring plan using wildlife as sentinel proxies.

Complete short-term objectives by the end of April 2015 with the number of samples required.

Short-Term Actions:

1. Collect wildlife samples (and samples from TNPRC feral cats) within the perimeter fence of TNPRC
 - a. 100 rat/mice, 10 nutria, 60 birds, 20 other wildlife, all TNPRC cats
 - b. Divide wildlife animal collections equally among North and South Campus
2. Collect wildlife samples on Tulane property outside of the perimeter fence of TNPRC
 - a. 30 rat/mice, 30 other wildlife including nutria

- b. Locations approved by LDWF
3. Collect wildlife samples from three control sites
 - a. 30 rat/mice, 30 other wildlife including nutria
 - b. Sites include the Fairgrounds, Bogue Falaya Park, and Fairview Riverside State Park
4. Monitor wildlife population within a 2-mile perimeter and at control sites
 - a. Submit any dead or sick wildlife found to USGS National Wildlife Health Center for examination and diagnosis, if *B. pseudomallei* is suspected, send samples to USDA National Veterinary Services Laboratories
5. Develop sample sizes for long-term monitoring

Long-Term Objectives

- Monitor for the presence of *B. pseudomallei* in the environment via wildlife as sentinels.
- Monitor the feral cat and rodent population on the TNPRC.
- Obtain tissues and serum for understanding of tests in wildlife (cross reactions, etc.).

*Complete long-term objectives over 5 years, or until an acceptable level of assurance (as set by the working group) that *B. pseudomallei* is not present in the environment is reached.*

Long-Term Actions

- Continue to sample wildlife in TNPRC, outside the perimeter fence but on the property, and in the three control locations at defined intervals.
- Continue to monitor for moribund or found dead wildlife.
- Conduct analyses of test results to develop better methods for interpreting serology and culture results.

Tulane Incident Domestic Animal Surveillance Working Group

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